(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address delivered to the Nation on the occasion of the 60th Independence Day had, *inter-alia,* announced the setting up of eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (UTs) in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Central Government have received requests from various State Governments including Governments of Uttar Pradesh & Orissa to set up new UTs in their States. Based on the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao, the Government have alreadey decided to establish three new UTs, one each in Bihar in the East, Rajasthan in the West and Andhra Pradesh in the South, during the 11th Plan period. Decision on the location of the remaining Institutes has not yet been taken.

Opening of an UT in Bihar

† 1374. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open an UT in Bihar;

(b) if so, by when along with the details of steps taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao, the Government have *inter-alia* decided to establish a new UT in Bihar during the 11th Plan period. "In-principle" approval of the Planning Commission for the proposal has been obtained.

Committee to check working of NCTE

1375. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formed any committee to look into the working of the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any report from the said committee; and

(d) if so, the main recommendations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Government had, in March 2007, constituted a Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Sudeep Banerjee, the then Advisor to the Ministry of Human Resource Development to conduct an in-depth study of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) and (d) The Review Committee submitted its Report to the Government in April, 2007. The Committee has, inter-alia, recommended that the National Council for Teacher *Education Act, J 993 be repealed.*

Entry of foreign law firms

1376. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed the entry of foreign law firms into the Indian legal services sector, to practise foreign law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is in response to India's Commitment to liberalise service sector, as promised under WTO;

(d) if so, to what extent Government is ready to bring liberalization and allow foreign firms to practise in India into legal profession; and

(e) whether Indian legal community has raised any objection in this regard, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir;

(b) Does not arise;

(c) No, Sir;

(d) Does not arise;

(e) Yes, Sir. The Government has invited the views of all stakeholders in the matter, including objections, if any.

Setting up of high courts benches

†1377. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of high court benches functioning in the States, at present;

(b) the norms followed to set up a bench or a special bench;

(c) the States where movement for setting up of such benches is going on;

(d) whether Government has received any report of such movement from Orissa;

(e) whether the State Chief Minister has submitted any letter to the Central Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details of steps being taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) There are 14 Permanent Benches functioning at present in the jurisdiction of 6 High Courts.

(b) The Jaswant Singh Commission in this report suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi